



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE NEW ORLEANS OBSERVES INDEPENDENCE DAY RECOGNIZING ICE RESERVISTS SERVING ON TWO FRONTS

OAKDALE, La.—More than two years ago, U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Thaldaris Talley returned home to his job as a Detention and Removal Officer at Oakdale, after spending 13 months fighting to protect military installations in the U.S. and Middle East.

Since his return, Major Talley has seen other reservists who work in Oakdale for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) leave to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They include: Army Capt. Daniel Bible, Army Staff Sgt. Bernadette Hodge, Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Bowman and Coast Guard Petty Officer Sam Edwards, just to name a few.

Maj. Talley, Sgt. Hodge, Sgt. 1st Class Bowman and Capt. Bible are all seasoned journeymen deportation officers. Petty Officer Edwards was a deportation assistant until his recent selection as an Immigration Enforcement Agent. Edwards is currently attending the five-month basic academy course in Glynco, Ga., and will be stationed in New Orleans following graduation.



Major Thaldaris Talley

“We’re grateful for their service to our country, both at home and abroad,” said Craig Robinson, ICE New Orleans field office director for detention and removal. “The nation owes a debt of gratitude to them, and the many service men and women serving our country today around the globe. We’re proud to have Major Talley serving again with us here at home, and whether he’s protecting us as an Air Force Security Forces Officer or an ICE deportation officer, he’s still protecting the American public from any possible threat. We’ll be thrilled to welcome home the others from ICE who are serving.”

Talley, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation officer with more than 10 years of service, returned to work with much the same mission he had in the Air Force. As an ICE employee, he is part of the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. Talley is one of more than 100 ICE employees who has served, or is currently serving, either in the U.S., Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

While serving overseas, Talley led a team of 65 people who provided base defense security for military assets in the U.S, Kuwait, Oman, and Turkey.

"I worked as the Force Protection Officer in Kuwait and the U.S.," said Talley. "My team ensured that over 2000 military and civilian members were educated and prepared to protect our military assets. I was responsible for ensuring that this was a continuous mindset for all our personnel. I had to consider all possible threats. Whenever personnel deployed, the Force Protection staff ensured they had updated intelligence, crime data, and cultural standards."

"As a Commander, the responsibilities were rewarding and challenging, especially when the U.S. declared war on terrorism. I had orchestrated squadron deployments to numerous locations. I am strongly committed to help defend our country against our enemies. The men and women under my command deserve accolades for their accomplishments. I am deeply grateful for their support and hard work."

"Spending time away from my wife and family for a year was difficult, but I was called to duty by our Country. My family is majority military. So I always prepared myself for this call. When it happened, without hesitation, I had to go," said Talley.

Talley was welcomed back to work by co-workers and friends.

"I remember that returning to ICE was the most memorable day of my mobilization. I appreciated everyone's concern and support. Most important, I continue to appreciate and thank my lovely family for their support and love. I'll always remember this deployment, but I'm very happy to be back," he said."

Thaldaris and Evelyn are the proud parents of two children, Tracye and DAngelo.



Captain Bible



Petty Officer Edwards



Sergeant First Class Tyrone Bowman

#ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.